

REMARKS

Please consider the following remarks in response to the Office Action mailed May 23, 2006. The application originally contained claims 1-21. Claims 11-21 have been cancelled. The claims presented for examination are claims 1-10.

35 USC §112 Rejection

Claims 1-11, 13, 14, and 16-19 were rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Claims 11- 19 have been cancelled. Applicants will explain how claims 1-10 comply with 35 USC §112, first paragraph.

1. The particle sequestering area (105) would be visible through the window (104). The drawing FIG. 4 is a section through the stainless steel flexure 101, the window 104, and the other components of the device taken at the center of the device. The stainless steel flexure 101 does not extend from edge to edge of the opening closed by window 104. Accordingly an off-center view through the window 104 past an edge of the stainless steel flexure 101 would show the particle sequestering area 105. This is illustrated on the copy of FIG. 4 below.

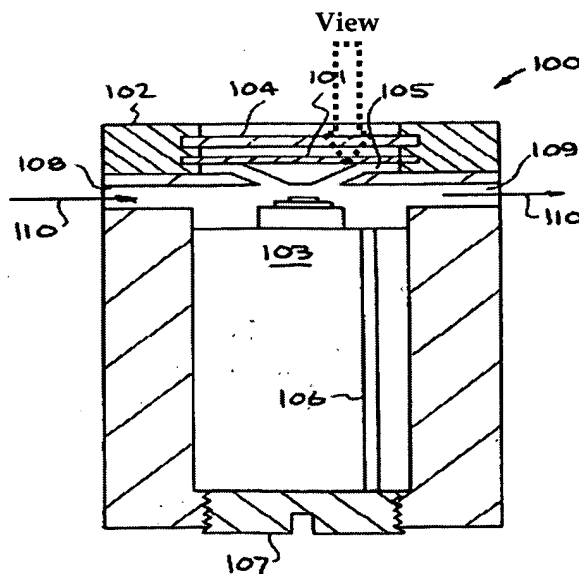


FIG. 1

2. The sequestering area 105 would receive the particles. Higher fluid pressure in the area between the deflected stainless steel flexure 101 and the stack 103 would push the particles into the sequestering area 105. By preselecting the dimensions of the various parts the particles will enter the sequestering area 105.

Applicants submit that the specification contains details sufficient for one skilled in the art to make and use the invention defined by claims 1-10. Not everything necessary to practice the invention need be disclosed. In re Buchner, 929 F.2d 660, 661 (Fed. Cir. 1991). Applicants believe that the explanation overcomes the rejection of claims 1-10 under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, and that a complete response to the rejection has been provided. Claims 1-10 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

35 USC §102 Rejection - Kornelsen

In numbered paragraph 1 on page 3 of the Office Action mailed May 23, 2006, claims 11, 16, and 17 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by the Kornelsen reference (US Patent No. 6,629,820).

Applicants have cancelled claims 11, 16, and 17.

35 USC §103 Rejection - Kornelsen in View of Kyser et al

In numbered paragraph 2 on page 4 of the Office Action mailed May 23, 2006, claims 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the Kornelsen reference in view of the Kyser et al reference (US Patent No. 4,506,276).

Applicants have cancelled claims 13 and 14.

35 USC §103 Rejection - Kornelsen in View of Gruber et al

In numbered paragraph 3 on page 4 of the Office Action mailed May 23, 2006, claims 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the Kornelsen reference in view of the Gruber et al reference (US Patent No. 4,834,534).

Applicants have cancelled claims 18 and 19.

SUMMARY

The undersigned respectfully submits that, in view of the foregoing amendments and the foregoing remarks, the rejections of the claims raised in the Office Action mailed May 23, 2006 have been fully addressed and overcome. The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that this application be reconsidered, that the claims be allowed, and that this case be passed to issue. If it is believed that a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of the present application, or clarify matters with regard to its allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (925) 424-6897.

Respectfully submitted,



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